

Certification of HIPAA Transactions

Certification is the independent assessment of HIPAA compliance via a Third Party tool. Verifying the demonstrated capabilities to send and receive a subset of the HIPAA transactions, for specific business purpose, in compliance with the HIPAA Implementation Guides (IG).

It does not replace internal System/Integration Testing or Trading Partner Testing (B2B), but supplements it. It is a structured testing (up to 7 Types/Levels) to ensure compliance with the HIPAA Implementation Guides on both inbound and outbound transactions.

Types/Levels (7) of Certification Testing

- *X12 and NCPDP syntax integrity testing.* Validates the basic syntactical integrity of the Health Plan's EDI file. Includes testing for valid segment order, element attributes, numerical values in numeric fields, etc...
- *Implementation Guide-specific Syntactical Requirements.* Validates the syntax required by the transaction sets' specific Implementation Guide (IG). Includes testing for required repeat counts, used and not used codes, elements and segments, required or inter-segmental data elements, non-medical code sets and values, etc...
- *Balancing.* Validates that a set of fields totals to the same value as a different field, as defined in the IG. Includes testing for balanced field totals, record or segment count financial balancing of claims or remittance advice, balancing summary of fields, etc...
- *Situation Testing.* Validates inter-segment situations specified in the IG (e.g., for accident claims, the accident date is present). Includes testing of specific inter-segment situations (i.e.... if A is populated B must be populated), validation of situation fields, etc...
- *External Code Set Testing.* Validates both IG-specific code set values and other HIPAA standard code sets such as CPT and NDC.
- *Product types or lines of services testing.* Validates specific requirements defined in the IG for specialized services and/or health cares specialties such as DME.
- *Trading partner specific testing.* Validates specified requirements for transactions, which are not necessary part of the IG.

Suggested Third Party Certification Vendors & Tools

Claredi

EDI FECS

Foresight

(A complete list of Certification tool/services can be obtained on the WEDI SNIP website at <http://snip.wedi.org>)

Certification Caution

Certification does not guarantee 100% acceptance of transactions once B2B Testing begins. It has been demonstrated that different Third Party tools may “catch” or “flag” different error conditions (IG related). Also, most major HIPAA Translators have been Certified to some level of testing and may again “catch” or “flag” different IG error conditions. These errors must be “worked out” or resolved during B2B Testing.

Position on Certification

Trading Partners will be Required to be Certified (up to Level 5)

- Reduces testing time by mitigating the risk of Implementation Guide interpretation/mapping errors;
- Allows concentration specific Trading Partner Agreements and Companion Document testing;
- Makes it easier to interpret and correct error reports with early identification and correction of errors.

AHCCCS will be Certified

- Allows testing of AHCCCS mapping logic in Trading Partner Agreements and Companion Documents;
- Allows some early exposure for AHCCCS ISD staff to transaction format, data and error correction techniques;
- Provides an opportunity to make corrections in the Trading Partner Agreements and Companion Documents prior to implementation;
- May facilitate initial testing efforts. Some Certification Tools have “Spec Builders” that would allow on-line creation of a transaction from the AHCCCS Translator Specifications, others require that a file of Transactions be submitted;
- Can submit transaction files (or a subset of the files) that the AHCCCS Translator has created through Third Party testing tools before submitting for B2B testing;
- Provides additional sources of testing to the Translator edits in order to detect and correct as many IG interpretation/mapping related errors before B2B testing.

AHCCCS selected Claredi as the certification tool that it will utilize. This selection was influenced by a number of factors including CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) selected Claredi as the Certification Tool for all Medicare (Carrier and Intermediaries) and their suggestion that Medicaid consider using it as well. In addition, many of our Trading Partners have also selected to utilize this tool. Claredi incorporates all 7 Types/Levels of IG testing.

